



# Douglass Ranch Extinguisher

November 2022

Hello Everyone! The holidays are fast approaching, that means increased visitors as well as increased baking. We thought a great topic for this month would be to discuss smoke detectors. Sadly, growing up in my house we thought the smoke detector going off was the dinner bell. As an adult, I regard smoke detectors much more seriously! Smoke detectors are extremely important to have in the home. They save lives every single day!

There are 3 types of smoke detectors

**Photoelectric:** This type of detector makes use of a light beam that helps detect smoke in a home. This type of smoke detector is best for detecting smoke from a smoldering source....a cigarette.

**Ionization:** This type of detector is an alarm that has two electrically charged plates on the inside of the housing. When smoke flows through them it disrupts the flow of ions and triggers the alarm. Burning something while cooking which sets the smoke detector off is probably an ionization smoke detector.

**Dual:** This smoke detector is both photoelectric and ionization. This actually is the best smoke detector. Smoldering fires as well as flaming fires are detected.

The USFA ( United States Fire Administration ) recommends that every home and place where people sleep have both photoelectric and ionization or a dual smoke detector.

Smoke detectors are either battery powered or hardwired. Hardwired detectors are considered the preferred device. These are not only powered by electricity but have a battery backup which is handy in power outages.

Now that you have that smoke detector, there is some maintenance. Here is a guide.

- Once a month test your smoke alarm batteries by pressing and holding the test button for at least 5 seconds until you hear the beeps.
- Every 6 months vacuum dust off your smoke detector. Keeping your smoke detector free of particles will help reduce false alarms and ensure smoke can easily reach sensors.
- Every year replace lead or alkaline batteries.
- Every 10 years replace all smoke detectors. **DON'T WAIT, CHECK THE DATE!**

In closing, remember that your Firewise Committee is here to help. Let's all be Safe!

December Issue: Avoiding a Holiday Catastrophe